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# Economic and Social Council

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**Annual ministerial review: implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender inequality and women's empowerment**

## Statement submitted by Fondation Surgir, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2010/100.

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## Statement

**Strengthening the fight against crimes of honour**

Notwithstanding the United Nations resolutions of 15 October 2004 and the efforts made by women's and human rights associations, the number of honour crimes committed in the Middle East and Central Asia is constantly rising, and the figure of 5,000 deaths per year announced by the United Nations seems an underestimate. A new law was passed in Pakistan in 2004, applying the death sentence to the perpetrators of honour crimes; but that law has still not been implemented to this day. According to the Human Rights Commission in Pakistan, 1,119 women were killed in crimes of honour in 2008; and the Madadgar Helpline in Karachi reports 2,829 deaths in the province of Sindh alone between 2004 and 2008.

In Turkey, the new law on life imprisonment for crimes of honour, passed in 2004, has been applied, and the number of murders has diminished; but the number of young women "committing suicide" has doubled.

Every new law that is passed under pressure from the West (as shown by the example of Turkey in its efforts to join the European Union) is circumvented one way or another. During this period, young women, and also men sometimes, die in often extremely barbaric circumstances (such as the case of a young girl who was buried alive in Turkey November 2009). We urge the Economic and Social Council to use all its influence with the Governments of the countries concerned to bring about a real reduction, and then the eradication of such murders, in the name of freedom and the right to life. Honour crimes have now started to appear in Belgium, France, Germany, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Each of these countries is working to implement a policy to combat this scourge, but the world needs to open its eyes to the thousands of women murders that have been committed in the countries concerned since time immemorial. In its work in the Middle East, our Foundation regularly deals with cases of young women who have survived third degree burning, poison, strangulation, or defenestration; but most of the victims do not survive. By issuing this statement we want to give these women a voice, to ensure that everyone becomes aware, wakes up and takes action in their own country; and that the United Nations finally unites to take the steps needed to put an end to this massacre.